



## THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION

### RESOLUTION

#### COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF THE OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

- WHEREAS,** SINCE 1882, THE CITIZENS OF WHEELING AND OHIO COUNTY HAVE VALUED THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBRARIES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY; AND,
- WHEREAS,** OHIO COUNTY WAS ONE OF ONLY THREE WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES PROVIDING FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLING BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR; AND,
- WHEREAS,** HISTORICALLY, THE MEMBERS OF THE WHEELING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND LATER THE OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, HAVE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN THEIR DEDICATION TO THE CHILDREN OF THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS; AND,
- WHEREAS,** THE WHEELING BOARD OF EDUCATION IN 1882 BEGAN PUBLICLY DISCUSSING THE ADVANTAGES OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN WHEELING AND FORMED A LIBRARY COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE ITS CREATION; AND,
- WHEREAS,** IN 1904, WHEN A MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO ACCEPT CARNEGIE FUNDS FAILED, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPEARHEADED THE CREATION AND FUNDING OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR WHEELING WHICH OPENED ON JANUARY 9, 1911; AND,
- WHEREAS,** IN 1932, WHEN THE TAX LIMITATION ACT WAS PASSED, AND ELIMINATED THE WHEELING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CAPABILITY TO FUND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOCAL EDUCATIONAL LEADERS SUPPORTED THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF A SPECIAL FUNDING LAW ENABLING DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY THROUGH A PORTION OF THE ANNUAL BOARD OF EDUCATION LEVY — THE FIRST LAW OF ITS KIND IN THE STATE; AND,

**WHEREAS,** THE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS GROWN AND FLOURISHED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF ITS LOCAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS AND ULTIMATELY THE CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA; AND,

**WHEREAS,** THE WEST VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS, IN 2013, DECLARED THAT REQUIRING BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO FUND LIBRARIES FROM SPECIAL LAWS WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BUT ADVISED THAT NON-MANDATORY FUNDING WAS ACCEPTABLE; AND,

**WHEREAS,** THE PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE PUBLICLY AFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS FISCAL YEAR AND THROUGHOUT THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

**NOW,  
THEREFORE,  
BE IT  
RESOLVED:** THAT THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2013, DO HEREBY COMMEND THE OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, COUNTY EDUCATIONAL LEADERS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROFESSIONALS FOR THEIR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH AND PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ALL LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THEIR COMMUNITY AND STATE. WE FURTHER ENDORSE THE BOARD'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY NOT ONLY IN THE UPCOMING YEAR, BUT IN MANY YEARS TO COME.

**BE IT  
FURTHER  
RESOLVED,** THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE PROVIDED TO OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT JAMES M. JORDEN, SUPERINTENDENT DR. DIANNA VARGO, AND OCPL BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT JIMMIE MCCAMIC.

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BETTY B. GUNNOE  
CHAIR